

Union Calendar No. 299

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2886

[Report No. 105–527]

To provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Mr. DOOLITTLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

MAY 12, 1998

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 7, 1997]

A BILL

To provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Granite Watershed En-*
 3 *hancement and Protection Act of 1998”.*

4 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
 5 **PROJECT, STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST,**
 6 **CALIFORNIA, TO ENHANCE AND PROTECT**
 7 **THE GRANITE WATERSHED.**

8 (a) *RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AUTHOR-*
 9 *IZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a con-*
 10 *tract with a single private contractor to perform multiple*
 11 *resource management activities on Federal lands within the*
 12 *Stanislaus National Forest in the State of California for*
 13 *the purpose of demonstrating enhanced ecosystem health*
 14 *and water quality, and significantly reducing the risk of*
 15 *catastrophic wildfire, in the Granite watershed at a reduced*
 16 *cost to the Government. The contract shall be for a term*
 17 *of five years.*

18 (b) *AUTHORIZED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The*
 19 *types of resource management activities performed under*
 20 *the contract shall include the following:*

21 (1) *Reduction of forest fuel loads through the use*
 22 *of precommercial and commercial thinning and pre-*
 23 *scribed burns.*

24 (2) *Monitoring of ecosystem health and water*
 25 *quality in the Granite watershed.*

1 (3) *Monitoring of the presence of wildlife in the*
2 *area in which management activities are performed*
3 *and the effect of the activities on wildlife presence.*

4 (4) *Such other resource management activities as*
5 *the Secretary considers appropriate to demonstrate*
6 *enhanced ecosystem health and water quality in the*
7 *Granite watershed.*

8 (c) *COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW AND SPOTTED*
9 *OWL GUIDELINES.—All resource management activities*
10 *performed under the contract shall be performed in a man-*
11 *ner consistent with applicable Federal law and the stand-*
12 *ards and guidelines for the conservation of the California*
13 *spotted owl (as set forth in the California Spotted Owl*
14 *Sierran Province Interim Guidelines or the subsequently*
15 *issued final guidelines, whichever is in effect).*

16 (d) *FUNDING.—*

17 (1) *SOURCES OF FUNDS.—To provide funds for*
18 *the resource management activities to be performed*
19 *under the contract, the Secretary may use—*

20 (A) *funds appropriated to carry out this*
21 *section;*

22 (B) *funds specifically provided to the Forest*
23 *Service to implement projects to demonstrate en-*
24 *hanced water quality and protect aquatic and*
25 *upland resources;*

1 (C) excess funds that are allocated for the
2 administration and management of the
3 Stanislaus National Forest, California;

4 (D) hazardous fuels reduction funds allo-
5 cated for Region 5 of the Forest Service; and

6 (E) a contract provision allowing the cost of
7 performing authorized management activities de-
8 scribed in subsection (b) to be offset by the values
9 owed to the United States for any forest products
10 removed by the contractor.

11 (2) *PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS.*—
12 *Except as provided in paragraph (1), the Secretary*
13 *may not carry out the contract using funds appro-*
14 *priated for any other unit of the National Forest Sys-*
15 *tem.*

16 (3) *CONDITIONS ON FUNDS TRANSFERS.*—*Any*
17 *transfer of funds under paragraph (1) may be made*
18 *only in accordance with the procedures concerning*
19 *notice to, and review by, the Committee on Appro-*
20 *priations of the House of Representatives and the*
21 *Committee on Appropriations of the Senate that are*
22 *applied by the Secretary in the case of a transfer of*
23 *funds between appropriations.*

24 (e) *ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF STATE FUNDS.*—*The*
25 *Secretary may accept and use funds provided by the State*

1 *of California to assist in the implementation of the contract*
2 *under this section.*

3 *(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than Feb-*
4 *ruary 28 of each year during the term of the contract, the*
5 *Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—*

6 *(1) the resource management activities performed*
7 *under the contract during the period covered by the*
8 *report;*

9 *(2) the source and amount of funds used under*
10 *subsection (d) to carry out the contract; and*

11 *(3) the resource management activities to be per-*
12 *formed under the contract during the calendar year*
13 *in which the report is submitted.*

14 *(g) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this*
15 *section exempts the contract, or resource management ac-*
16 *tivities to be performed under the contract, from any Fed-*
17 *eral environmental law.*

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